

Before the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 24, please insert the following section heading:

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel original claims 1-15 and rewrite them as new claims 16-43 as follows:

16. A resin for a binder suitable for mineral fibers such as glass or stone wool, said resin comprising the reaction product of a polymer free mixture of an amine with a first anhydride and a second anhydride, characterized in that the first anhydride and the second anhydride are different anhydrides.

17. The resin for a binder suitable for mineral fibers such as glass or stone wool according to claim 16, wherein the first anhydride is a cyclic anhydride and the second anhydride is a cyclic anhydride.

18. The resin for a binder suitable for mineral fibers such as glass or stone wool according to claim 17, wherein the first anhydride is an aliphatic anhydride and the second anhydride is an aromatic anhydride.

19. The resin according to claim 18, wherein the aliphatic anhydride comprises one or more anhydrides selected from the group consisting of tetrahydrophthalic anhydride, hexahydrophthalic anhydride, methyltetrahydrophthalic anhydride, succinic anhydride, nadic anhydride, maleic anhydride, and glutaric anhydride.

20. The resin according to claim 18, wherein the aromatic anhydride comprises one or more anhydrides selected from the group consisting of phthalic anhydride and trimellitic anhydride and/or pyromellitic dianhydride and methylphthalic anhydride.

21. The resin according to claim 18, wherein the concentration of aliphatic anhydride is greater than the concentration of aromatic anhydride.

22. The resin according to claim 16, wherein the amine is a N-substituted beta hydroxy alkylamine selected from the group consisting of ethanolamine, 1-ethylethanolamine, 1-methylethanolamine, n-butyl-ethanolamine, 1-ethylisopropanolamine, 1-methylisopropanolamine, 3-amino-1,2-propanediol, 2-amino-1,3-propanediol, tris(hydroxymethyl)aminomethane, and diethanolamine.

23. A resin comprising a polymer free mixture for a binder, said resin comprising the reaction product of a cyclic anhydride and an amine, at a pH of from about 2.5 to about 4.2, said pH being predetermined to positively influence the curing speed of the resin.

24. The resin according to claim 23, wherein the cyclic anhydride comprises a first anhydride which is an aliphatic anhydride and a second anhydride which is an aromatic anhydride.

25. The resin according to claim 24, wherein the aliphatic anhydride comprises one or more anhydrides selected from the group consisting of tetrahydrophthalic anhydride, hexahydrophthalic anhydride, methyltetrahydrophthalic anhydride, succinic anhydride, nadic anhydride, maleic anhydride, and glutaric anhydride.

26. The resin according to claim 24, wherein the aromatic anhydride comprises one or more anhydrides selected from the group consisting of phthalic anhydride and trimellitic anhydride and/or pyromellitic dianhydride and methylphthalic anhydride.

27. The resin according to claim 24, wherein the concentration of aliphatic anhydride is greater than the concentration of aromatic anhydride.

28. The resin according to claim 23, wherein the amine is a N-substituted beta hydroxy alkylamine selected from the group consisting of ethanolamine, 1-ethylethanolamine, 1-methylethanolamine, n-butyl-ethanolamine, 1-ethylisopropanolamine, 1-methylisopropanolamine, 3-amino-1,2-propanediol, 2-amino-1,3-propanediol, tris(hydroxymethyl)aminomethane, and diethanolamine.

29. The binder for mineral fibers such as glass or stone wool comprising the resin according to claim 16.

30. The binder according to claim 29, further comprising an accelerator and one or more resin additives selected from the group consisting of aminopropyl siloxane, thermal stabilizers, UV stabilizers, surface active compounds, fillers, silicates, magnesium sulfate, hydrophobising agents, oils, minerals, and silicone oils.

31. The binder according to claim 30, wherein the accelerator is selected from the group comprising sodium phosphinate, phosphinic acid, citric acid, adipic acid and g-hydroxyalkylamid.

32. The binder according to claim 29, further comprising one or more additives selected from the group comprising monosaccharides, disaccharides, and polysaccharides.

33. The binder according to claim 32, wherein the monosaccharides, disaccharides, and polysaccharides are one or more selected from the group consisting of sucrose, glucose syrup, modified starch, starch urea dicyandiamid, polyglycols, acrylics, furfural, carboxymethyl cellulose and cellulose, or polyvinyl alcohol.

34. The binder according to claim 29, wherein the binder has been cured.

35. The binder for mineral fibers such as glass or stone wool comprising the resin according to claim 23.

36. The binder according to claim 35, further comprising an accelerator and one or more resin additives selected from the group consisting of aminopropyl siloxane, thermal stabilizers, UV stabilizers, surface active compounds, fillers, silicates, magnesium sulfate, hydrophobising agents, oils, minerals, and silicone oils.

37. The binder according to claim 36, wherein the accelerator is selected from the group comprising sodium phosphinate, phosphinic acid, citric acid, adipic acid and g-hydroxyalkylamid.

38. The binder according to claim 35, further comprising one or more additives selected from the group comprising monosaccharides, disaccharides, and polysaccharides.

39. The binder according to claim 38, wherein the monosaccharides, disaccharides, and polysaccharides are one or more selected from the group consisting of sucrose, glucose syrup, modified starch, starch urea dicyandiamid, polyglycols, acrylics, furfural, carboxymethyl cellulose and cellulose, or polyvinyl alcohol.

40. The binder according to claim 35, wherein the binder has been cured.

41. The mineral fiber product bound by a cured binder according to claim 29.

42. The mineral fiber product bound by a cured binder according to claim 35.

43. A method for providing a polymer free resin for a binder suitable for binding mineral fiber products, said process comprising the steps of mixing together under reaction conditions an amine with a first aliphatic cyclic anhydride and a second aromatic cyclic anhydride.

IN THE ABSTRACT:

After the claims, please insert a page containing the Abstract Of The Disclosure, which is attached hereto as a separately typed page.